

## BOOK REVIEW

RONALDO BARTHEM AND MICHAEL GOULDING. 2007. **An Unexpected Ecosystem: the Amazon as Revealed by Fisheries.** (ISBN 978-9972-2912-4-1, pbk.). Missouri Botanical Garden Press, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-0299, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.mbgpress.info, 314-577-9594 fax). \$35.00, 241 pp., color photographs and illustrations, 9" × 10 1/2".

From the first chapter of *An Unexpected Ecosystem* you will notice how the book describes in great detail how important the fish are to the rainforest ecosystem and to the rest of the world. Although I feel this book is focused toward the more scientific mind, it is filled much information that will also entertain the reader just looking for a good informational book about fish of the Amazon River.

*An Unexpected Ecosystem* has over 200 color photographs that really help tell the story over the concern of fisheries on the Amazon River. The book also does a great job at describing both the good fishing methods and, unfortunately for the ecosystem, the bad fishing methods. Being a person who is fascinated with interesting facts, I particularly enjoyed the detailed graphs and charts presented in the book. They too help extenuate the message being told in the text. I do feel the text is hard to follow in a sense of understanding all of the information, but it does a good job at describing so much information for such a short book.

One of my favorite features of the book is the descriptions of the 29 commercial food fishes. Each fish has its own detailed description including its origin with detailed, color coded maps, as well as migratory patterns, spawning periods, and much more. Each individual fish species also has a great photograph along with everything else.

Not only will *An Unexpected Ecosystem* educate you about the fish in the Amazon River, but it will also teach you much about the conservation of the river itself and much of the forest around it. I would highly recommend this book to anybody who is interested in the conservation of the Amazon Rainforest. It is a lot of information that you will enjoy sharing at your dinner table.—*Kyle Rasmussen, Intern, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 500 East 4th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.*